

The VET Review – INCARES: 2014 Year End Report

By: Sara Hamidovic, PE, CHMM – President, VET Environmental Engineering, LLC

We would like to welcome our four newest Indiana Certified Automotive Recycler Exemplary Standards (INCARES) Medalists to the INCARES program: **Car Recyclers, Veldman's Auto Parts, Legal Chop Shop, Archie's Auto Recycling, and Crushers Auto Recycling.** VET audited and certified five new medalists since the last edition of the VET Review went to press. INCARES Certification is awarded based on the following grade scale:

SILVER Certification - 75% Compliance with INCARES Standards
GOLD Certification - 85% Compliance with INCARES Standards
PLATINUM Certification - 95% Compliance with INCARES Standards

All five of the facilities are doing a great job! It was fun to get to stop in at the facilities we've visited in the past and see the progress that's being made. I was particularly impressed with **Car Recyclers.** The last time I visited Kelly and Trina's place was in 2012. Their facility was very nicely run in 2012, but some of the refinements and improvements they've made are fantastic! I'm proud to announce that they are our second PLATINUM facility in Indiana. Well done guys! Keep up the great work! Thank you to all of our medalists for their commitment to sound business practices and to our INCARES program! I believe that **Northlake** and **Car Recyclers** will have some company in the PLATINUM medal category next year. As for our current GOLD and SILVER medalists, you are only a few small steps away from earning PLATINUM certification. Let us know what we can do to help get you there. You should all be very proud of the commitments you've made so far.

INCARES SCOREBOARD

Northlake Auto Recyclers (97.77%) - PLATINUM
Car Recyclers (95.40%) - PLATINUM
Veldman's Auto Parts (89.66%) - GOLD
Ray's Auto Parts (89.08%) - GOLD
Legal Chop Shop (86.21%) - GOLD
Archie's Auto Recycling (79.89%) - SILVER
Midwest Jeeps (78.74%) - SILVER
Beard's Auto Parts (77.01%) - SILVER
Crushers Auto Recycling (75.29%) - SILVER

I recently sat in on a conference call with all of the state affiliate chapters for the Automotive Recyclers Association (ARA) Certified Automotive Recyclers (CAR) Program. There are only seven states that currently have affiliate chapters. The affiliate chapters are associated with the state automotive recyclers associations and each has its own environmental and safety certification program. ARA recognizes the affiliate chapters' certification programs – ARI's affiliate program is INCARES. What this means is that ARA will award national CAR certification to our INCARES medalists if they are interested in being certified. For ARA members in good standing, ARA requires a fee of \$50 to recognize INCARES certification. If you are not an ARA member and wish to be CAR Certified you will have to pay ARA's membership dues in addition to the \$50 CAR Certification fee. This means that if you have an INCARES Audit performed at your facility you DO NOT need to have a CAR Audit for ARA in addition.

ARA has asked that the affiliate chapter managers submit the \$50 fees from all of our medalists next year to assist with recordkeeping. My plan is that when I conduct INCARES Audits I will determine whether or not each medalist is interested in CAR Certification through ARA. If so I will collect a \$50 check made payable to ARA. ARA has decided to return to a calendar year cycle as opposed to a fiscal

year schedule. This means that all of our audits for 2015 must be completed by December 31, 2015. Dues will be due to ARA for CAR certification by December 31, 2014. Sandy and I plan on having an awards presentation at this year's convention to recognize all of our medalists and present certificates. For this to happen I need to complete audits prior to the convention. Our goal for 2015 is to end the year with 25 INCARES medalists. I plan on awarding a "Most Valuable" award to the medalist that supports the INCARES program and helps us to grow through recommendations and referrals. Finally, I will present a "Most Improved" award to our medalist that has made the most significant improvements to their facility over the course of the year.

Sandy and I will begin contacting ARI's membership early this year. I would like to get a good idea of all the facilities we need to visit this year to get a good schedule and plan in the works. I am available to chat anytime. I always tell our clients that our business does not charge like a lawyer. You will never receive a bill from me for a ten minute phone call or for asking a question. We are involved with this industry because we like it and are passionate about it. It makes us happy to see our clients succeed. Please give us a call anytime. My cell phone number is (812) 327-2838. Thank you to all our medalists for your support and I look forward to certifying more deserving INCARES members in 2015! VET wishes you all health, happiness, and prosperity in 2015!